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| Book Name: | **"RURAL JUSTICE IN AFRICA: RETHINKING CRIME, POLICING, AND COMMUNITY SECURITY IN MARGINALISED SPACES"** |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_BPR\_5912.2** |
| Title of the Manuscript:  | **ENHANCING RURAL SAFETY IN SOUTH AFRICA: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL RURAL SAFETY STRATEGY (NRSS)** |
| Type of the Article | **Book Chapter** |

**Special note:**

**A research paper already published in a journal can be published as a Book Chapter in an expanded form with proper copyright approval.**

**Source Article:**

**This chapter is an extended version of the article published by the same author(s) in the following journal.**

**IRASS Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, 2(6) 27-34, 2025.**

**DOI:** [**https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15574718**](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15574718)

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| PART 1: Comments |
|  | Reviewer’s comment**Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | Author’s Feedback *(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | This manuscript is a value addition to the existing body of knowledge on rural safety and policing in Soth Africa. It provides a comprehensive assessment of the National Rural Safety Strategy (NRSS) through a structured, multi-theoretical lens, which enhances both its academic depth and practical relevance. The capter addresses longstanding gaps related to stakeholder coordination, policing infrastructure, and intelligence-led crime prevention in rural contexts. Its contributions can inform future research, policy reform, and operational frameworks aimed at improving safety and governance in marginalised rural areas. |  |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?****(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | The current title is well-aligned with the subject matter and content of the chapter. It captures the core theme of rural security in South Africa wile also emphasizing the evaluative nature of the work. The inclusion of terms like "Rural Safety", "South Africa" and "Critical Analysis" adds precision and relevance for both scholarly and policy-focused readerships. A title change is not required. |  |
| Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here. | The abstract offers a detailed overview of the manuscriptʹs purpose, key findings and contributions. However, it is slightly too lengthy and densely packed with information, which mai affect readability. It would benefit from being more concise – focusing on the core research objectives, main challenges identified, and practical implications. Additionaly, reorganising the flow to crearly distinguish the problem, methodology, and conclusions would improve clarity for the reader.  |  |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.**  | The manuscript demonstrates scrientific integrity and presents a coherent, well-structured critical analysis. The arguments are logically developed, supported by current data and credible academic references. The theoretical framework is relevant and appropriately applied, integrating multiple criminological ang governance models. While the methodology could be more explicity stated, the overall analytical depth and evidence-based approach confirm that the manuscript meets scientific standards.  |  |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.****-** | The manuscript is well supported by recent and relevant references, primarly drawn from the period 2022 – 2024, which enhances its academic credibility. The sources reflect a good balance between scholarly research, institutional reports, and government documents. However, to strengthen the comparative value of study, the inclusion of 1 – 2 references on rural policing strategies from other Global South contexts (e.g. India, Kenya, or Brazil) is recommended. This would broaden the scope and provide valuable international benchmarks for the South African case.  |  |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | The manuscript is written in an academic tone and demonstrates a solid command of formal English. While the language is largely appropriate for scholarly dissemination, there are a few instances where sentence construction or word choice could be refined for greater precision and readability. It is advisable to carry out a careful final edit to address minor grammatical slips and to ensure stylistic consistency – particularly in the abstract and literature review.  |  |
| Optional/General comments | The chapter provides a valuable a valuable addition to current academic and policy-oriented conversations surrounding rural safety and law enforcement in South Africa. By addressing real-world implementation challenges and anchoring its in established theoretical models, the work demonstrates both intellectual depth and practical relevance. Te narrative is well-structured, arguments are clearly developed, and the policy recommendations are both actionable and insightful. With slight refinements in clarity and contextual expansion, the chapter will be a strong contribution to the book. The manuscript is well-researched, thematically relevant, and throughtfully constructured.It demonstrates solid academic merit and policy applicability.Only minor revisions are required to improve clarity, language consistency, and contextual breadth.Based on the scoring guideline, the manuscript qualifies for "**Minor Revision**". |  |

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| **PART 2:**  |
|  | Reviewer’s comment | Author’s comment *(if agreed with the reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?**  | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in detail)* |  |

**Reviewer details:**

**Budacu Dumitru, Romania**